

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the 5 resulting composite.
3. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system of claim 28 wherein the nonwoven web has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the direction of extension of the nonwoven web being the machine direction of 5 said nonwoven web.
4. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.
5. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.
6. (canceled).
7. (canceled).

8. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim
6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become
oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking
or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular
5 to the applied force.

9. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening
system set forth in claim 28 wherein the nonwoven web comprises
substantially continuous fibers.

10. (canceled).

11. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim
6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented
in the cross machine direction.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of
claim 12 wherein the first fastening component has been
stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to
an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the
5 resulting composite.

15. (canceled).

16. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of
claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been
stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to
an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the
5 resulting composite.

17. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by orienting the nonwoven web in the machine direction and necking the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

21. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

22-27. (canceled).

28. (previously presented) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, the web being in its extended configuration on the substrate; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material,
the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening
component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook
15 material of the second fastening component.

29. (canceled).

30. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening
system set forth in claim 28 in combination with the article,
said substrate being formed integrally with the article.

31. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening
system set forth in claim 28 wherein the substrate is
substantially inelastic.

32. (currently amended) The mechanical fastening system
set forth in claim [[29]] 40 wherein the substrate is
substantially inelastic.

33. (currently amended) An absorbent article for
personal wear, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable inner layer for contact with [[the]] a
wearer's skin, an outer layer in superposed relationship with
5 the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the
inner layer and the outer layer, the article having a first end
region and a second end region; and

10 a mechanical fastening system comprising at least one
first fastening component disposed generally at the first end
region of the article and at least one second fastening
component disposed generally at the second end region of said
article and adapted for releasable connection with the at least
one first fastening component to secure the article on [[a]]

the wearer of said article, the at least one first fastening
15 component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured
to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising
a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a
relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in
the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the
20 nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is
extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, said web
being in its extended configuration on the substrate, the at
least one second fastening component comprising a hook
material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the at least
25 one first fastening component being adapted for releasable
connection with the hook material of the at least one second
fastening component.

34. (previously presented) The absorbent article set
forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web is generally free
from substantial necking and gathering in a direction
perpendicular to the direction in which the web is extended.

35. (previously presented) The absorbent article set
forth in claim 33 in combination with the article wherein the
substrate is formed integrally with the article.

36. (previously presented) The absorbent article set
forth in claim 33 wherein the substrate is substantially
inelastic.

37. (previously presented) The absorbent article set
forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web of the at least one
first fastening component has a machine direction and a cross-

machine direction, the direction in which the web is extended
5 being the machine direction.

38. (withdrawn) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material free from attachment to a backing substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is 10 extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, said web being in its extended configuration; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook 15 material of the second fastening component.

39. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 38 in combination with the article, the first fastening component defining at least a portion of said article.

40. (new) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented 5 nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers, said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a

greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed

10 configuration of the web, the web being in its extended configuration on the substrate and being generally free from substantial necking and gathering on the substrate in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the web is extended; and

15 a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.